

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING FOR BURY ST EDMUNDS
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 24 MAY 2017 AT 6.05 PM
AT 7 ANGEL HILL, BURY ST EDMUNDS**

PRESENT: Town Councillors Speed (Town Council Chairman – in the Chair), Chung, Everitt, Hailstone, K Hind, Hopfensperger, Nettleton, Rayner, Rout, Thompson, F Warby and P Warby.

Representatives from Bury In Bloom, Bury St Edmunds Fairtrade Partnership (2) and 1 resident.

Town Council staff: Greg Luton (Town Clerk/Executive Officer), Sue Hindry (Assistant Town Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer), Julie Sturgeon (Allotments and Administration Assistant).

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION BY THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman welcomed Greg Luton as Town Clerk.

2. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Penny Bentley (Bury St Edmunds Fairtrade Partnership), Victoria Bowman (St Nicholas Hospice), Yvonne Cash (Cathedral Meadows Residents' Association), Mark Cordell (OurBuryStEdmunds), Vivien Gainsborough Foot (Churchgate Area Association), Philip Gladwell (Breathe Easy), Ben Hall (Suffolk Accident Rescue Service), Cllr D Hind, Cliff Hind and R Houlton-Hart (Moreton Hall Residents Association), Jen Lerner (Saxon Gate Residents' Association, Cllr Murray, Cllr Springett, Colin Taylor (Southgate Area Association) and Cllr Williamson.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 25 MAY 2016

The vote to adopt the minutes was carried.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT OF THE YEAR IN OFFICE

The Chairman noted that the Council needs to achieve more with the budget it has, to lobby more and strengthen its interaction with both County and Borough Councils. He added that the failure to deliver the second fully funded Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) was a weakness but one which was out of the Council's control and that the relationship with Suffolk County Council Highways was a source of frustration.

He thanked both Officers for holding the fort during the recruitment of a new Town Clerk and his fellow Town Councillors for their voluntary commitment, complimenting them on the absence of party political bickering. It is hoped that the Town Council would take on the trustee role for Bury St Edmunds on the Magna Carta Trust and thanked Margaret Charlesworth for representing the town for many years. He also thanked all the others who assist the Council's work. Finally he mentioned the Destination Management Organisation (DMO) which is a new body that gets properly underway in June and which seeks to deliver a coordinated effort on tourism thus ensuring that the Town continues to attract visitors as well as being a place that people want to live and work.

5. TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY GROUPS, TOWN ORGANISATIONS AND RECIPIENTS OF TOWN COUNCIL FUNDING

Bury St Edmunds Fairtrade Partnership

A representative from the Bury St Edmunds Fairtrade Partnership advised that Bury St Edmunds is one of eight Fairtrade Towns in Suffolk and its status as a Fairtrade town will have to be renewed in 2018. The Partnership has produced window stickers, postcards and a directory with details of all the businesses in Bury St Edmunds which sell Fairtrade goods and these are available free of charge. She noted that Fairtrade wines had been served at last year's St Edmund's Day Awards presentation evening and St Edmund's Day dinner.

Bury In Bloom

Bury In Bloom's co-ordinator thanked the Council for its support of projects including Abbeygate Street's hanging baskets and the Lark & Linnet bollard trail. She outlined other recent projects including the Crown sculpture and advised that the Anglia in Bloom judging is scheduled for Tuesday 11 July 2017, Finally she mentioned future projects including a 'James Moore' cyclist sculpture, 'Grey to Green' projects, lighting of the 'Flight of Peace' sculpture and a trail commemorating the end of the First World War.

6. OPEN FORUM – RESIDENTS MAY RAISE ANY MATTER RELATING TO THE TOWN

A resident spoke about plans to celebrate St Edmund's Day this year and sought support from the Council.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting closed at 6.32 pm.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____